AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing Of Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of identifying and processing a mailpiece with destination information, comprising:

determining if the mailpiece includes a code on the front of the mailpiece and if the mailpiece includes a code on the back of the mailpiece, the mailpiece also having a textual destination address on the front of the mailpiece;

sorting the mailpiece using a code on the front of the mailpiece, if it was determined that the mailpiece includes a code on the front of the mailpiece;

identifying the mailpiece using a code on the back of the mailpiece, if it was determined that the mailpiece includes a code on the back of the mailpiece only; and

processing ~~sorting~~ the mailpiece in an identification code system if it was determined that the mailpiece includes neither a code on the front of the mailpiece nor a code on the back of the mailpiece, processing the mailpiece in the identification code system comprising:

applying an identification code to the back of the mailpiece,

applying a postal code to the front of the mailpiece in accordance with the destination information on the mailpiece, and

creating an identification file corresponding to the identification code,

wherein the identification file may be accessed by a plurality of nodes in the

identification code system.

2.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the postal code is

a geographic coded code.

3.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the postal code is

a bar code.

4.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the postal <u>code</u> is a

POSTNET code.

5.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the identification

code is a printed bar code.

6.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the identification

code is an ID tag.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the identification file includes

the identification code.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the identification file further includes the postal code.

9.   (Withdrawn) A system for identifying and processing mailpieces including destination information, comprising:

a front code sorting component configured for sorting a first mailpiece having a code on its front;

an identifying component configured for sorting a second mailpiece not having a code on its front and having a code on its back; and

an identification code system having a plurality of nodes and a processing component configured for processing a third mailpiece having neither a code on its front nor a code on its back, the identification code system processing component comprising;

an identification code applying component configured to apply an identification code to the back of the third mailpiece ,

a postal code applying component configured to apply a postal code to the front of the third mailpiece in accordance with the destination information on the mailpiece, and

a creating component configured to create an identification file corresponding to the identification code, wherein the identification file may be accessed by a plurality of nodes in the identification code system.

10.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 9, wherein the postal code is a geographic coded code.

11.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 9, wherein the postal code is a bar code.

12.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 9, wherein the postal code is a POSTNET code.

13.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 9, wherein the identification code is a printed bar code.

14.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 9, wherein the identification code is an ID tag.

15.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 9, wherein the identification file includes the identification code.

16.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 15, wherein the identification file further includes the postal code.

17. (Withdrawn) A computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for identifying and processing mailpieces including destination information, the computer readable code comprising:

a front code sorting module configured for sorting a first mailpiece having a code on its front;

an identifying module configured for identifying a second mailpiece not having a code on its front and having a code on its back; and

an identification code system processing module configured for processing a third mailpiece having neither a code on its front nor a code on its back, the identification code system processing component comprising:

an identification code applying module configured to apply an identification code to the back of the third mailpiece,

a postal code applying module configured to apply a postal code to the front of the third mailpiece in accordance with the destination information on the third mailpiece, and

a creating module configured to create an identification file corresponding to the identification code, wherein the identification file may be accessed by a plurality of nodes in an identification code system.

18. (Withdrawn) A system for identifying and processing mailpieces including destination information, comprising:

means for sorting a first mailpiece having a code on its front;

means for identifying a second mailpiece not having a code on its front and having a code on its back; and

means for processing a third mailpiece having neither a code on its front nor a code on its back, the processing means comprising;

means for applying an identification code to the back of the third mailpiece,

means for applying a postal code to the front of the third mailpiece in accordance with the destination information on the third mailpiece, and

means for creating an identification file corresponding to the identification code, wherein the identification file may be accessed by a plurality of nodes in an identification code system.

19.   (Withdrawn) A method of identifying and processing a mailpiece, comprising:

determining in an input system if the mailpiece includes a code on the front of the mailpiece and if the mailpiece includes a code on the back of the mailpiece;

sorting the mailpiece using a code on the front of the mailpiece, if it was determined that the mailpiece includes a code on the front of the mailpiece;

identifying the mailpiece using a code on the back of the mailpiece, if it was determined that the mailpiece includes a code on the back of the mailpiece only; and

processing the mailpiece in an identification code system having a plurality of nodes if it was determined that the mailpiece includes neither a code on the front of the

mailpiece nor a code on the back of the mailpiece, processing the mailpiece in the identification code system comprising:

marking the mailpiece with an identification code on the back of the mailpiece at the input system,

generating an image of the mailpiece at the input system,

transporting the mailpiece from the input system to an output system,

processing the mailpiece image in an identification file system to create an identification file corresponding to the image, wherein the identification file may be accessed by the plurality of nodes in the identification code system,

processing the image at a keying site to create the identification file for the image, if the identification file system did not create the identification file,

transmitting the identification file an output system, and

associating the identification file with the corresponding identification code for the mailpiece at the output system.

20.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of:

marking a postal code on the front of the mailpiece based on the identification file associated with the identification code determined in the sorting step.

21.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein the postal code on the front of the mailpiece is a geographic coded code.

22.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein the postal code on the front of the mailpiece is a bar code.

23.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein the postal code on the front of the mailpiece is a POSTNET code.

24.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19, wherein the identification code on the back of the mailpiece is a printed bar code.

25.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19, wherein the identification code on the back of the mailpiece is an ID tag.

26.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19, wherein the keying site processing step further comprises the substep of:

processing the mailpiece image in order of priority.

27.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26, wherein the priority is based on a geographic destination of the mailpiece.

28.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of:

transmitting the identification file to a primary identification code server.

29.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 28, further comprising the step of:

transmitting the identification file from the primary identification code server to a secondary identification code server.

30.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of:

locating an identification file based on the code on the back of the mailpiece, if there is the code on the back of the mailpiece.

31.   (Withdrawn) A system for identifying and processing mailpieces, comprising:

a front code sorting component configured for sorting a first mailpiece having a code on its front;

an identifying component configured for sorting a second mailpiece not having a code on its front and having a code on its back; and

an identification code system processing component configured for sorting a third mailpiece having neither a code on its front nor a code on its back, the identification code system processing component comprising:

an identification code marking component configured to mark the third mailpiece with an identification code on the back of the third mailpiece at the input system,

an image component configured to generate an image of the third mailpiece at an input system,

a mailpiece transporting component configured to transport the third mailpiece from the input system to an output system,

an identification file system processing component configured to process

the image in an identification file determining system to create an identification

file for the image, wherein the identification file may be accessed by a plurality of

nodes in the identification code system,

a keying site processing component configured to process the image at a

keying site to create the identification file for the image, if the identification file

determining system did not create the identification file,

an identification file transmitting component configured to transmit the

identification file corresponding to the image to the output system, and

an associating component configured to associate the identification file for

the image to the corresponding identification code for the third mailpiece at the

output system.

32.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 31, further comprising:

a postal code marking component configured to mark a postal code on the

front of the mailpiece based on the identification file associated with the

identification code determined by the identification code system sorting

component.

33.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 32, wherein the postal code on the front

of the mailpiece is a geographic coded code.

34.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 32, wherein the postal code is a bar code.

35.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 32, wherein the postal code is a POSTNET code.

36.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 31, wherein the identification code is a printed bar code.

37.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 31, wherein the identification code is an ID tag.

38.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 31, wherein the keying site processing component further comprises a priority processing component configured to process the third mailpiece image in order of priority.

39.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 38, wherein the priority is based on a geographic destination of the third mailpiece.

40.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 31, further comprising:

a primary identification code server transmitting component configured to transmit the identification file to a primary identification code server.

41.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 40, further comprising:

a secondary identification code server transmitting component configured to

transmit the identification file from the primary identification code server to a secondary

identification code server.

42.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 31, wherein the identification code

system sorting component comprises a locating component configured to locate the

identification file based on the code on the back of the third mailpiece.

43.   (Withdrawn) A system for identifying and processing mailpieces, the

system comprising:

means for sorting a first mailpiece having a code on its front;

means for identifying a second mailpiece not having a code on its front and

having a code on its back; and

means for processing a third mailpiece in an identification code system, the third

mailpiece having neither a code on its front nor a code on its back, the processing

means comprising:

means for marking the third mailpiece with an identification code on the

back of the third mailpiece at an input system,

means for generating an image of the third mailpiece at the input system,

means for transporting the third mailpiece from the input system to an

output system,

means for processing the image in an identification file system to create

an identification file corresponding to the image, wherein the identification file

may be accessed by a plurality of nodes in the identification code system,

means for processing the image at a keying site to create the identification

file for the image, if the identification file system did not create the identification

file,

means for transmitting the identification file corresponding to the image to

the output system, and

means for associating the identification file with the third mailpiece

identification code.

44.   (Withdrawn) A computer usable medium having computer readable code

embodied therein for identifying and processing mailpieces, the computer readable

code comprising:

a front code sorting module configured for sorting a first mailpiece having a code

on its front;

an identifying module configured for identifying a second mailpiece not having a

code on its front and having a code on its back; and

an identification code system processing module configured for sorting a third

mailpiece having neither a code on its front nor a code on its back, the identification

code system processing module comprising:

an identification code marking module configured to mark the third

mailpiece with an identification code on the back of the third mailpiece,

an image module configured to generate an image of the third mailpiece,

a mailpiece transporting module configured to transport the third mailpiece from an input system to an output system,

an identification file determining system processing module configured to process the image in an identification file determining system to create an identification file for the image, wherein the identification file may be accessed by a plurality of nodes in the identification code system,

a keying site processing module configured to process the image at a keying site to create the identification file for the image,

an identification file transmitting module configured to transmit the identification file corresponding to the image, and

an associating module configured to associate the identification file with the identification code corresponding to the third mailpiece.

45.   (Withdrawn) A method of identifying and processing a mailpiece, comprising:

determining if the mailpiece includes a code on the front of the mailpiece and if the mailpiece includes a code on the back of the mailpiece;

sorting the mailpiece using a code on the front of the mailpiece, if it was determined that the mailpiece includes a code on the front of the mailpiece;

identifying the mailpiece using a code on the back of the mailpiece, if it was determined that the mailpiece includes a code on the back of the mailpiece only; and

processing the mailpiece in an identification code system, wherein, if it was determined that the mailpiece includes neither a code on the front of the mailpiece nor a code on the back of the mailpiece only, processing the mailpiece in an identification code system comprises:

marking the mailpiece with an identification code on the back of the mailpiece at an input subsystem,

generating an image of the mailpiece using an optical device at the input subsystem,

transporting the mailpiece from the input subsystem to an output subsystem,

transmitting the image to an image control unit,

transmitting the image from the image control unit to a remote computer reader,

comparing the image to a master reference table, by the remote computer reader, to create an identification file corresponding to the image, wherein the identification file may be accessed by a plurality of nodes in the identification code system,

transmitting the identification file corresponding to the image to the image control unit, if the remote computer reader created the identification file, and

storing the image in an identification code sort image buffer by the remote computer reader, if the identification file was not created by the remote computer reader, wherein storing the image includes:

initiating a transmission of a buffer file containing the image from the identification code sort image buffer to the image control unit,

transmitting the buffer file from the image control unit to a keying site,

processing the mailpiece image from the buffer file at the keying site to create the identification file for the image,

transmitting the identification file from the keying site to the image control unit,

transmitting the identification file from a decision storage unit at the image control unit to the output subsystem, and

associating the identification file to the identification code corresponding to the mailpiece at the output subsystem.

46.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45, further comprising marking a postal code on the front of the mailpiece based on the identification file.

47.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 46, wherein the postal code on the front of the mailpiece is a geographic coded code.

48.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 46, wherein the postal code on the front of the mailpiece is a bar code.

49.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 46, wherein the postal code on the front of the mailpiece is a POSTNET code.

50.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45, wherein the identification code on the back of the mailpiece is a printed bar code.

51.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45, wherein the identification code on the back of the mailpiece is an ID tag.

52.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45, wherein the processing step further comprises the substep of:

processing the mailpiece image in order of priority.

53.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 52, wherein the priority is based on a geographic destination of the mailpiece.

54.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45, further comprising transmitting the identification file to a primary identification code server.

55.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 54, further comprising transmitting the identification file from the primary identification code server to a secondary identification code server.

56.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45, further comprising transmitting a master reference table from a central database to the image control unit.

57.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45, further comprising transmitting the master reference table from the image control unit to the remote computer reader.

58.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45, wherein prompting includes receiving an end-of-run message.

59.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45, further comprising locating an identification file based on the code on the back of the mailpiece, if there is a code on the back of the mailpiece.

60.   (Withdrawn) A system of identifying and processing mailpieces, comprising:

a front code sorting component configured for sorting a first mailpiece having a code on its front;

an identifying component configured for sorting a second mailpiece not having a code on its front and having a code on its back; and

an identification code system processing component configured for processing a third mailpiece in an identification code system, the third mailpiece having neither a code on its front nor a code on its back, the identification code system processing component comprising:

an identification code marking component configured to mark the third mailpiece with an identification code on the back of the third mailpiece at an input subsystem,

a generating component configured to generate an image of the third mailpiece using an optical device at the input subsystem,

an input subsystem transporting component configured to transport the third mailpiece from the input subsystem to an output subsystem,

an image control unit transmitting component configured to transmit the image to an image control unit,

a remote computer reader transmitting component configured to transmit the image from the image control unit to a remote computer reader,

a comparing component configured to compare the image to a master reference table, by the remote computer reader, to create an identification file corresponding to the image, wherein the identification file may be accessed by a plurality of nodes in the identification code system,

an identification file transmitting component configured to transmit the identification file corresponding to the image to the image control unit, if the remote computer reader created the identification file, and

a storing component configured to store the image in an identification code sort image buffer by the remote computer reader, if the identification file was not created by the remote computer reader, wherein the storing component includes:

an initiating component configured to initiate a transmission of a

buffer file containing the image from the identification code sort image

buffer to the image control unit,

a buffer file transmitting component configured to transmit the

buffer file from the image control unit to a keying site,

a processing component configured to process the image from the

buffer file at the keying site to create the identification file for the image,

a return transmitting component configured to transmit the

identification file from the keying site to the image control unit,

an output subsystem transmitting component configured to transmit

the identification file corresponding to the image from a decision storage

unit at the image control unit to the output subsystem, and

an associating component configured to associate the identification

file for the image to the corresponding identification code for the at the

output subsystem.

61.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 60, further comprising:

a postal code marking component configured to mark a postal code on the front

of the third mailpiece based on the identification file.

62.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 61, wherein the postal code is

geographic coded code.

63.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 61, wherein the postal code is a bar code.

64.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 61, wherein the postal code is a POSTNET code.

65.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 60, wherein the identification code is a printed bar code.

66.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 60, wherein the identification code is an ID tag.

67.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 60, wherein the processing component further comprises a priority processing component configured to process the image in order of priority.

68.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 67, wherein the priority is based on a geographic destination of the third mailpiece.

69.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 60, further comprising:

a primary identification code server transmitting component configured to transmit the identification file to a primary identification code server.

70.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 69, further comprising:

a secondary identification code server transmitting component configured to

transmit the identification file from the primary identification code server to a secondary

identification code server.

71.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 60, further comprising:

a central database transmitting component configured to transmit the master

reference table from a central database to the image control unit.

72.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 60, further comprising:

a master reference table transmitting component configured to transmit the

master reference table from the image control unit to the remote computer reader.

73.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 60, wherein the prompting component

receives an end-of-run message.

74.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 60, further comprising:

a locating component configured to locate an identification file based on the code

on the back of the mailpiece, if there is the code on the back of the mailpiece.

75.   (Withdrawn) A system for identifying and processing mailpieces,

comprising:

means for sorting a first mailpiece having a code on its front;

means for identifying a second mailpiece not having a code on its front and having a code on its back; and

means for processing a third mailpiece having neither a code on its front nor a code on its back, the processing means comprising:

means for marking the third mailpiece with an identification code on the back of the third mailpiece at an input subsystem,

means for generating an image of the third mailpiece using an optical device at the input subsystem,

means for transporting the third mailpiece from the input subsystem to an output subsystem,

means for transmitting the image to an image control unit,

means for transmitting the image from the image control unit to a remote computer reader,

means for comparing the image to a master reference table, by the remote computer reader, to create an identification file corresponding to the image, wherein the identification file may be accessed by a plurality of nodes in an identification code system,

means for transmitting the identification file corresponding to the image to the image control unit, if the remote computer reader created the identification file, and

means for storing the image in an identification code sort image buffer by the remote computer reader, if the identification file was not created by the remote computer reader, wherein the storing means comprises:

means for initiating a transmission of a buffer file containing the image from the identification code sort image buffer to the image control unit,

means for transmitting the buffer file from the image control unit to a keying site,

means for processing the image from the buffer file at the keying site to create the identification file corresponding to the image,

means for transmitting the identification file from the keying site to the image control unit,

means for transmitting the identification file corresponding to the image from a decision storage unit at the image control unit to the output subsystem, and

means for associating the identification file for the image to the corresponding identification code for the third mailpiece at the output subsystem.

76.   (Withdrawn) A computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for identifying and processing mailpieces, the computer readable code comprising:

a front code sorting module configured for processing a first mailpiece having a code on its front;

an identifying module configured for identifying a second mailpiece having neither a code on its front nor a code on its back; and

an identification code system processing module configured for processing a

third mailpiece having neither a code on its front nor a code on its back, the

identification code system processing component comprising:

an identification code marking module configured to mark the third

mailpiece with an identification code on the back of the third mailpiece at an input

subsystem,

a generating module configured to generate an image of the third

mailpiece using an optical device at the input subsystem,

an input subsystem transporting module configured to transport the third

mailpiece from the input subsystem to an output subsystem,

an image control unit transmitting module configured to transmit the image

to an image control unit,

a remote computer reader transmitting module configured to transmit the

mailpiece from the image control unit to a remote computer reader,

a comparing module configured to compare the image to a master

reference table, by the remote computer reader, to create an identification file for

the image, wherein the identification file may be accessed by a plurality of nodes

in the identification code system,

an identification file transmitting module configured to transmit the

identification file corresponding to the image to the image control unit, if the

remote computer reader created the identification file, and

a storing module configured to store the image in an identification code sort image buffer by the remote computer reader, if the identification file was not created by the remote computer reader, wherein the storing module comprises:

an initiating module configured to initiate a transmission of a buffer file containing the image from the identification code sort image buffer to the image control unit,

a buffer file transmitting module configured to transmit the buffer file from the image control unit to a keying site,

a processing module configured to process the image from the buffer file at the keying site to create the identification file for the image,

a return transmitting module configured to transmit the identification file from the keying site to the image control unit,

an output subsystem transmitting module configured to transmit the identification file corresponding to the image from a decision storage unit at the image control unit to the output subsystem, and

an associating module configured to associate the identification file for the image to the corresponding identification code for the mailpiece at the output subsystem.

77.   (Currently Amended) A method of identifying a mailpiece, comprising:

determining if the mailpiece includes a code on the front of the mailpiece and if the mailpiece includes a code on the back of the mailpiece, the mailpiece also having a textual destination address on the front of the mailpiece;

sorting the mailpiece using a code on the front of the mailpiece, if it was

determined that the mailpiece includes a code on the front of the mailpiece;

identifying the mailpiece using a code on the back of the mailpiece, if it was

determined that the mailpiece includes a code on the back of the mailpiece only; and

identifying the mailpiece in an identification code system if it was determined that

the mailpiece ~~include~~ includes neither a code on the front of the mailpiece nor a code on

the back of the mailpiece, identifying the mailpiece in the identification code system

comprises:

marking the mailpiece with an identification code on the back of the

mailpiece,

marking the mailpiece with a postal code on the front of the mailpiece~~;~~,

and

creating an identification file corresponding to the identification code,

wherein the identification file may be accessed by a plurality of nodes in the

identification code system.

78.   (Original) The method of claim 77, wherein the postal code on the front of

the mailpiece is a geographic coded code.

79.   (Original) The method of claim 77, wherein the postal code on the front of

the mailpiece is a bar code.

80.   (Original) The method of claim 77, wherein the postal code on the front of the mailpiece is a POSTNET code.

81.   (Original) The method of claim 77, wherein the identification code on the back of the mailpiece is a printed bar code.

82.   (Original) The method of claim 77, wherein the identification code on the back of the mailpiece is an ID tag.

83.   (Withdrawn) A system for identifying mailpieces, comprising:

a front code sorting component configured for sorting a first mailpiece having a code on its front;

a back code identifying component configured for sorting a second mailpiece not having a code on its front and having a code on its back; and

an identification code system identifying component configured for identifying a third mailpiece having neither a code on its front nor a code on its back, the identification code system identifying component comprising:

a back code marking component configured to mark the third mailpiece with an identification code on the back of the third mailpiece,

a front code marking component configured to mark the third mailpiece with a postal code on the front of the third mailpiece, and

a creating component configured to create an identification file

corresponding to the identification code, wherein the identification file may be

accessed by a plurality of nodes in the identification code system.

84.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 83, wherein the postal code is a

geographic coded code.

85.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 83, wherein the postal code is a bar

code.

86.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 83, wherein the postal code is a

POSTNET code.

87.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 83, wherein the identification code is a

printed bar code.

88.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 83, wherein the identification code is an

ID tag.

89.   (Withdrawn) A system for identifying mailpieces, comprising:

    means for sorting a first mailpiece having a code on its front;

    means for identifying a second mailpiece not having a code on its front and

having a code on its back; and

means for identifying a third mailpiece having neither a code on its front nor a code on its back, the sorting means comprising:

means for marking the third mailpiece with an identification code on the back of the third mailpiece,

means for marking the third mailpiece with a postal code on the front of the third mailpiece, and

means for creating an identification file corresponding to the identification code, wherein the identification file may be accessed by a plurality of nodes in the identification code system.

90.   (Withdrawn) A computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for identifying mailpieces, the computer readable code comprising:

a front code sorting module configured for sorting a first mailpiece having a code on its front;

a back code identifying module configured for identifying a second mailpiece not having a code on its front and having a code on its back; and

an identification code system identifying module configured for identifying a third mailpiece having neither a code on its front nor a code on its back, the identification code system identifying component comprising:

a back code marking module configured to mark the third mailpiece with an identification code on the back of the third mailpiece,

a front code marking module configured to mark the third mailpiece with a postal code on the front of the third mailpiece, and

a creating module configured to create an identification file corresponding

to the identification code, wherein the identification file may be accessed by a

plurality of nodes in the identification code system.

91.   (Currently Amended) A method of sorting a mailpiece, comprising:

determining if the mailpiece includes a code on the front of the mailpiece and if

the mailpiece includes a code on the back of the mailpiece, the mailpiece also having a

textual destination address on the front of the mailpiece;

sorting the mailpiece using a code on the front of the mailpiece, if it was

determined that the mailpiece includes a code on the front of the mailpiece;

sorting the mailpiece using a code on the back of the mailpiece, if it was

determined that the mailpiece includes a code on the back of the mailpiece only; and

processing the mailpiece in an identification code system if it was determined

that the mailpiece includes neither a code on the front of the mailpiece nor a code on

the back of the mailpiece, processing the mailpiece in the identification code system

comprising:

marking the mailpiece with an identification code on the back of the

mailpiece,

marking the mailpiece with a postal code on the front of the mailpiece;,

and

creating an identification file corresponding to the identification code,

wherein the identification file may be accessed by a plurality of nodes in the

identification code system.

92.   (Original) The method of claim 91, wherein the postal code on the front of the mailpiece is a geographic coded code.

93.   (Original) The method of claim 91, wherein the postal code on the front of the mailpiece is a bar code.

94.   (Original) The method of claim 91, wherein the postal code on the front of the mailpiece is a POSTNET code.

95.   (Original) The method of claim 91, wherein the identification code on the back of the mailpiece is a printed bar code.

96.   (Original) The method of claim 91, wherein the identification code on the back of the mailpiece is an ID tag.

97.   (Withdrawn) A system for sorting mailpieces, comprising:

a front code sorting component configured for sorting a first mailpiece having a code on its front;

a back code sorting component configured for sorting a second mailpiece not having a code on its front and having a code on its back; and

an identification code system processing component configured for processing a third mailpiece having neither a code on its front nor a code on its back, the identification code system processing component comprising:

a back code marking component configured to mark the third mailpiece with an identification code on the back of the third mailpiece,

a front code marking component configured to mark the third mailpiece with a postal code on the front of the third mailpiece, and

a creating component configured to create an identification file corresponding to the identification code, wherein the identification file may be accessed by a plurality of nodes in the identification code system.

98.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 97, wherein the postal code is a geographic coded code.

99.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 97, wherein the postal code is a bar code.

100.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 97, wherein the postal code is a POSTNET code.

101.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 97, wherein the identification code is a printed bar code.

102. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 97, wherein the identification code is an ID tag.

103. (Withdrawn) A system for sorting a mailpiece, comprising:

means for sorting a first mailpiece having a code on its front;

means for sorting a second mailpiece not having a code on its front and having a code on its back; and

means for processing a third mailpiece having neither a code on its front nor a code on its back, the processing means comprising:

means for marking the third mailpiece with an identification code on the back of the third mailpiece,

means for marking the third mailpiece with a postal code on the front of the third mailpiece, and

means for creating an identification file corresponding to the identification code, wherein the identification file may be accessed by a plurality of nodes in an identification code system.

104. (Withdrawn) A computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for sorting mailpieces, the computer readable code comprising:

a front code sorting module configured for sorting a first mailpiece having a code on its front;

a back code sorting module configured for identifying a second mailpiece not having a code on its front and having a code on its back; and

an identification code system processing module configured for processing a

third mailpiece having neither a code on its front nor a code on its back, the

identification code system processing component comprising:

a back code marking module configured to mark the third mailpiece with

an identification code on the back of the third mailpiece,

a front code marking module configured to mark the third mailpiece with a

postal code on the front of the third mailpiece, and

a creating module configured to create an identification file corresponding

to the identification code, wherein the identification file may be accessed by a

plurality of nodes in an identification code system.

105.   (Withdrawn) A method of identifying an identification file for a mailpiece

image at an image control unit, comprising the steps of:

receiving a mailpiece image from an optical character reader at an input

subsystem;

transmitting the mailpiece image to a remote computer reader;

receiving an identification file corresponding to the mailpiece image from the

remote computer reader, if the remote computer reader obtained an identification file for

the mailpiece image; and

creating the identification file, if the remote computer reader did not obtain the

identification file, wherein the creating step includes the substeps of:

transmitting the mailpiece image to a keying site; and

receiving the identification file corresponding to the mailpiece image from the keying site.

106. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 105, further comprising the step of:

transmitting the identification file from a decision storage unit to an output subsystem.

107. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 105, further comprising the step of:

transmitting the identification file to a primary identification code server.

108. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 107, further comprising the step of:

transmitting the identification file from the primary identification code server to a secondary identification code server.

109. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 105, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a master reference table of identification information from a central database; and

transmitting the master reference table to the remote computer reader.

110. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 109, wherein the identification file receiving step occurs, if the remote computer reader obtained an identification file for the mailpiece image based on the master reference table.

111. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 105, wherein the creating step further comprises the substep of:

receiving the mailpiece image from an identification code sort image buffer.

112. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 111, wherein the mailpiece image received from the identification code sort image buffer step has been marked for processing at a keying site.

113. (Withdrawn) A system for identifying an identification file for a mailpiece image at an image control unit, comprising:

a mailpiece image receiving component configured to receive a mailpiece image from an optical character reader at an input subsystem;

a remote computer reader transmitting component configured to transmit the mailpiece image to a remote computer reader;

a remote computer reader receiving component configured to receive an identification file corresponding to the mailpiece image from the remote computer reader, if the remote computer reader obtained an identification file for the mailpiece image; and

a creating component configured to create the identification file, if the remote computer reader did not obtain the identification file, wherein the creating component includes:

a keying site transmitting component configured to transmit the mailpiece image to a keying site; and

a keying site receiving component configured to receive the identification file corresponding to the mailpiece image from the keying site.

114. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 113, further comprising:

a decision storage unit transmitting component configured to transmit the identification file from a decision storage unit to an output subsystem.

115. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 113, further comprising:

a primary identification code server transmitting component configured to transmit the identification file to a primary identification code server.

116. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 115, further comprising:

a secondary identification code server transmitting component configured to transmit the identification file from the primary identification code server to a secondary identification code server.

117. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 113, further comprising:

a master reference table receiving component configured to receive a master reference table of identification information from a central database; and

a master reference table transmitting component configured to transmit the master reference table to the remote computer reader.

118.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 117, wherein the identification file receiving component receives, if the remote computer reader obtained an identification file for the mailpiece image based on the master reference table.

119.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 113, wherein the creating component further comprises:

an identification code sort image buffer receiving component configured to receive the mailpiece image from an identification code sort image buffer.

120.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 119, wherein the mailpiece image received from the identification code sort image buffer has been marked for processing at a keying site.

121.   (Withdrawn) A system for identifying an identification file for a mailpiece image at an image control unit, comprising:

means for receiving a mailpiece image from an optical character reader at an input subsystem;

means for transmitting the mailpiece image to a remote computer reader;

means for receiving an identification file corresponding to the mailpiece image from the remote computer reader, if the remote computer reader obtained an identification file for the mailpiece image; and

means for creating the identification file, if the remote computer reader did not obtain the identification file, wherein the creating means includes:

means for transmitting the mailpiece image to a keying site; and

means for receiving the identification file corresponding to the mailpiece image

from the keying site.

122.   (Withdrawn) A computer usable medium having computer readable code

embodied therein for identifying an identification file for a mailpiece image at an image

control unit, the computer readable code comprising:

a mailpiece image receiving module configured to receive a mailpiece image

from an optical character reader at an input subsystem;

a remote computer reader transmitting module configured to transmit the

mailpiece image to a remote computer reader;

a remote computer reader receiving module configured to receive an

identification file corresponding to the mailpiece image from the remote computer

reader, if the remote computer reader obtained an identification file for the mailpiece

image; and

a creating module configured to create the identification file, if the remote

computer reader did not obtain the identification file, wherein the creating module

includes:

a keying site transmitting module configured to transmit the mailpiece image to a

keying site; and

a keying site receiving module configured to receive the identification file

corresponding to the mailpiece image from the keying site.

123. (Withdrawn) A method of sorting a mailpiece image at a remote computer reader, comprising the steps of:

receiving the mailpiece image from an image control unit;

receiving a master reference table of identification information from the image control unit;

comparing the mailpiece image to the master reference table to create an identification file corresponding to the mailpiece image; and

transmitting the identification file corresponding to the mailpiece image to the image control unit, if the identification file was created by comparing the mailpiece image to the master reference table.

124. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 123, wherein the buffer is an identification code sort image buffer.

125. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 123, further comprising the step of:

storing the mailpiece image in a buffer, if the identification code was not created by comparing the mailpiece image to the master reference table.

126. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 125, wherein the storing step further comprises the steps of:

assigning a priority designation to the mailpiece image based on the master reference table; and

transmitting the priority designation for the mailpiece image to the buffer.

127.   (Withdrawn) A system for sorting a mailpiece image at a remote computer

reader, comprising:

a mailpiece image receiving component configured to receive the mailpiece

image from an image control unit;

a master reference table receiving component configured to receive a master

reference table of identification information from the image control unit;

a comparing component configured to compare the mailpiece image to the

master reference table to create an identification file corresponding to the mailpiece

image; and

an identification file transmitting component configured to transmit the

identification file corresponding to the mailpiece image to the image control unit, if the

identification file was created by comparing the mailpiece image to the master reference

table.

128.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 127, wherein the buffer is an

identification code sort image buffer.

129.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 127, further comprising:

a storing component configured to store the mailpiece image in a buffer, if the

identification code was not created by comparing the mailpiece image to the master

reference table.

130. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 129, wherein the storing component further comprises:

an assigning component configured to assign a priority designation to the mailpiece image based on the master reference table; and

a priority designation transmitting component configured to the priority designation for the mailpiece image to the buffer.

131. (Withdrawn) A system for sorting a mailpiece image at a remote computer reader, comprising:

means for receiving the mailpiece image from an image control unit;

means for receiving a master reference table of identification information from the image control unit;

means for comparing the mailpiece image to the master reference table to create an identification file corresponding to the mailpiece image; and

means for transmitting the identification file corresponding to the mailpiece image to the image control unit, if the identification file was created by comparing the mailpiece image to the master reference table.

132. (Withdrawn) A computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for sorting a mailpiece image at a remote computer reader, the computer readable code comprising:

a mailpiece image receiving module configured to receive the mailpiece image from an image control unit;

a master reference table receiving module configured to receive a master reference table of identification information from the image control unit;

a comparing module configured to compare the mailpiece image to the master reference table to create an identification file corresponding to the mailpiece image; and

an identification file transmitting module configured to transmit the identification file corresponding to the mailpiece image to the image control unit, if the identification file was created by comparing the mailpiece image to the master reference table.

133.   (Withdrawn) A method of storing a mailpiece image in a buffer, comprising the steps of:

receiving a file from a remote computer reader, wherein the file contains a mailpiece image;

storing the mailpiece image in a buffer;

receiving a prompt from the remote computer reader; and

transmitting the file from the buffer to an image control unit, upon receipt of the prompt.

134.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 133, wherein the buffer is an identification code sort image buffer.

135.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 133, wherein the prompt is an end-of-run message.

136.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 133, wherein the file is a buffer file.

137.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 133, wherein the file received from the remote computer reader further comprises a priority designation.

138.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 137, wherein the storing step further comprises the substep of:

storing the mailpiece image in the buffer according to the priority designation.

139.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 138, wherein the transmitting step further comprises the substep of:

transmitting the file from the buffer to the image control unit in order of priority designation, upon receipt of the prompt.

140.   (Withdrawn) A system for storing a mailpiece image in a buffer, comprising:

a file receiving component configured to receive a file from a remote computer reader, wherein the file contains a mailpiece image;

a mailpiece image storing component configured to store the mailpiece image in a buffer;

a prompt receiving component configured to receive a prompt from the remote computer reader; and

a file transmitting component configured to transmit the file from the buffer to an image control unit, upon receipt of the prompt.

141.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 140, wherein the buffer is an identification code sort image buffer.

142.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 140, wherein the prompt is an end-of-run message.

143.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 140, wherein the file is a buffer file.

144.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 140, wherein the file received from the remote computer reader further comprises a priority designation.

145.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 144, wherein the mailpiece image storing component further comprises:

a priority storing component configured to store the mailpiece image in the buffer according to the priority designation.

146.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 145, wherein the file transmitting component further comprises:

a priority transmitting component configured to transmit the file from the buffer to the image control unit in order of priority designation, upon receipt of the prompt.

147.   (Withdrawn) A system for storing a mailpiece image in a buffer,

comprising:

means for receiving a file from a remote computer reader, wherein the file

contains a mailpiece image;

means for storing the mailpiece image in a buffer;

means for receiving a prompt from the remote computer reader; and

means for transmitting the file from the buffer to an image control unit, upon

receipt of the prompt.

148.   (Withdrawn) A computer usable medium having computer readable code

embodied therein for storing a mailpiece image in a buffer, the computer readable code

comprising:

a file receiving module configured to receive a file from a remote computer

reader, wherein the file contains a mailpiece image;

a mailpiece image storing module configured to store the mailpiece image in a

buffer;

a prompt receiving module configured to receive a prompt from the remote

computer reader; and

a file transmitting module configured to transmit the file from the buffer to an

image control unit, upon receipt of the prompt.

149.   (Withdrawn) A method of identifying a mailpiece image at a keying site, comprising the steps of:

receiving a file from an image control unit, wherein the file contains a mailpiece image;

processing the mailpiece image to identify the mailpiece image, wherein the processing step further comprises the substeps of:

presenting the mailpiece image to an operator at a viewing station;

identifying the mailpiece image by the operator at the viewing station; and

creating an identification file based on the identification of the mailpiece image by the operator at the viewing station; and

transmitting the identification file to the image control unit.

150.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 149, wherein the file received from the image control unit further comprises a priority designation.

151.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 150, wherein the processing step further comprises the substep of:

processing the mailpiece image in order of priority designation.

152.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 151, wherein the transmitting step further comprises the substep of:

transmitting the identification file to the image control unit in order of priority designation.

153. (Withdrawn) A system for identifying a mailpiece image at a keying site, comprising:

a receiving component configured to receive a file from an image control unit, wherein the file contains a mailpiece image;

a mailpiece image processing component configured to process the mailpiece image to identify the mailpiece image, wherein the mailpiece image processing component further comprises:

a presenting component configured to present the mailpiece image to an operator at a viewing station;

an identifying component configured to identify the mailpiece image by the operator at the viewing station; and

a creating component configured to create an identification file based on the identification of the mailpiece image by the operator at the viewing station; and

an identification file transmitting component configured to transmit the identification file to the image control unit.

154. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 153, wherein the file received from the image control unit further comprises a priority designation.

155. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 154, wherein the mailpiece image processing component further comprises:

a priority processing component configured to process the mailpiece image in order of priority designation.

156.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 155, wherein the identification file transmitting component further comprises:

a priority transmitting component configured to transmit the identification file to the image control unit in order of priority designation.

157.   (Withdrawn) A system for identifying a mailpiece image at a keying site, comprising:

means for receiving a file from an image control unit, wherein the file contains a mailpiece image;

means for processing the mailpiece image to identify the mailpiece image, wherein the processing means further comprises:

means for presenting the mailpiece image to an operator at a viewing station;

means for identifying the mailpiece image by the operator at the viewing station; and

means for creating an identification file based on the identification of the mailpiece image by the operator at the viewing station; and

means for transmitting the identification file to the image control unit.

158.   (Withdrawn) A computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for identifying a mailpiece image at a keying site, the computer readable code comprising:

a receiving module configured to receive a file from an image control unit, wherein the file contains a mailpiece image;

a mailpiece image processing module configured to process the mailpiece image to identify the mailpiece image, wherein the processing module further comprises:

a presenting module configured to present the mailpiece image to an operator at a viewing station;

an identifying module configured to identify the mailpiece image by the operator at the viewing station; and

a creating module configured to create an identification file based on the identification of the mailpiece image by the operator at the viewing station; and

an identification file transmitting module configured to transmit the identification file to the image control unit.